

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

October 18, 2006

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Jose Julio Leon Sanchez, 23, of Madison, Wisconsin, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz to 78 months in prison for distributing cocaine and for being a felon in possession of a firearm. This term of imprisonment will be followed by a three-year term of supervised release. Sanchez pleaded guilty to this charge on August 9, 2006.

Sanchez sold cocaine to an undercover Madison police officer three times. Following his arrest, his car was searched and officers found additional cocaine, marijuana, two knives, and a sword. His home was also searched. In it, officers found a sawed-off shotgun which had previously been reported as stolen.

In addition to his criminal penalties, Sanchez forfeited to the federal government \$5,130 that was found in his home. This money will be distributed to the agencies that participated in the investigation of Sanchez.

The charges against Sanchez were the result of an investigation conducted by the Dane County Narcotics and Gang Task Force. Prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Altman.

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